

**Department of Planning and Budget
2012 Fiscal Impact Statement**

1. Bill Number: HB 445

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Toscano, David J.

3. Committee: Passed Both Houses

4. Title: Adoption; various changes to procedures

5. Summary: The enrolled bill makes various changes to adoption procedures including: establishing a procedure for review of petitions filed for the purpose of obtaining a juvenile and domestic relations district court's assistance with the execution of consent to an adoption when the consent is executed pursuant to the laws of another state; expanding venue for consent hearings in parental placement adoptions to include any city or county in the Commonwealth, provided that diligent efforts are made to conduct the hearing where the child was born, where the birth parents reside, or where the adoptive parents reside; eliminating the need for parental consent for an adoption in cases in which a birth parent has, without just cause, neither visited nor contacted the child for a period of six months immediately prior to the filing of a petition for adoption or a petition to accept consent to an adoption; adding language setting forth requirements for establishment of a date of birth for a child adopted from a foreign country; and clarifying the requirements for stepparent adoptions. The bill also makes changes to the process of registering with the Putative Father Registry.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

7. No Fiscal Impact

8. Fiscal Implications: None

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:
Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None

Date: 3/1/12

Document: G:\2012 Fiscal Year\Efis\Enrolled\HB445er.doc